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Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate
Change and Land
Reform Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh

6 November 2017

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for your letter of 29 September about the progress being made towards the final Climate Change Plan, following the Parliament's helpful scrutiny of the draft Plan earlier this year. I'm pleased that the Committee continues to show such interest in the Plan, which is central to delivering Scotland's climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement. Global climate action by all levels of governments, cities and businesses is accelerating and is unstoppable. This was affirmed by leaders at the UN COP22 climate conference in Marrakech, and we are committed to maintaining our international leadership.

By positioning Scotland at the forefront of the global transition to a low carbon economy we will ensure that Scottish businesses are able to seize the opportunities offered by the decarbonisation of our economy. In 2015, for example, nearly 60,000 jobs were supported by the low carbon and renewable energy sector in Scotland, generating turnover of over £10bn. Scotland has demonstrated global leadership in this transition and I'm happy to have this opportunity to update you on our progress.

As recommended by the Committee, we have been working on embedding our monitoring and evaluation approach across the policies and proposals in the final Plan. We are committed to continuous development and refinement of the monitoring approach over the course of its application, as we set out in the draft Plan. We will continue working with the Committee on Climate Change to ensure that our monitoring and evaluation framework is fit for purpose to ensure effective implementation and communication of progress against the policies and proposals in the final Plan.

The final Plan will incorporate updated TIMES modelling with the most recent data available, including the 2015 Greenhouse Gas Inventory - published in June 2017 - as well as some updated sectoral analysis. The modelling has also been updated to reflect the key policy announcements since the publication of the draft plan, for example those in the Programme for Government.

We are carefully considering the valuable advice of the Committee on Climate Change as we work on the Plan. The Programme for Government (PfG) announced a number of policies that were not - due to proximity of publication - taken into account by the Committee in its recent 'Reducing emissions in Scotland – 2017 progress report' (although the Committee did note and welcome them). The PfG announced, for example, our intention to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel vehicles in Scotland by 2032, a significant raising of our ambition in this field, answering one of the Committee's main recommendations. The final CCP will take into account the policies announced in the PfG and the recommendations provided by the Committee, and ensure we are on the most effective path to reach our demanding targets for emissions reductions.

You already know that we set up a Climate Change Plan Advisory Group - comprised of key academic, environmental and community action experts, and we continue to receive valuable advice from its members. We are publishing the Advisory Group papers online , and you can find them on the Scottish Government website:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/climatechange/climate-change-plan>

Chris Stark, Director of Energy and Climate Change, will meet the ECCLR Committee for an informal update on climate change matters, including the Climate Change Plan and our proposed monitoring framework, on 7 November. I hope you find that session useful.

Finally, I informed Parliament on 31 October that we will publish the final Climate Change Plan in February 2018.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roseanna', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Roseanna Cunningham